

Proposed Examiner's Amendment

9. (Proposed) A vehicle mounted control apparatus comprising:

a switch accessible by a driver of a vehicle, the switch being actuated by the driver to select executing a command execution mode;

a voice command receiver inside the vehicle that receives a voice command input when the command execution mode is executed;

a voice recognition section operably connected to the voice command input device for recognizing the voice command input by the voice receiver;

a user interface on an interior surface of the vehicle, the user interface being actuated by a nonverbal input by the driver to select executing an operation guidance mode, the user interface including a display device that provides visual operation guidance to the driver regarding the command execution mode when the operation guidance mode is executed;

a control section operably connected to the switch and the user interface, the control section executing the command execution mode in response to the driver actuating the switch, the control section executing the operation guidance mode in response to the driver actuating the user interface by the nonverbal input,

wherein, when the voice command cannot be recognized by the voice recognition section, the control section performs the following:

determines a cause of incapability of recognition of the voice command,
and

causes the display device to display a visual notice indicating to the driver the determined cause of the incapability of recognition as a result of the driver visually recognizing the visual notice as representing a particular one of a plurality of distinct causes of incapability of recognition, the visual notice being one of a plurality of different display formats for the display device which are stored in the apparatus in correspondence with the plurality of distinct causes of incapability of recognition, respectively; and

a command execution section that executes the voice command when the voice command is recognized by the voice recognition section.

21. (Proposed) A method implemented by a vehicle mounted apparatus which includes a switch accessible by a driver of a vehicle, a voice command receiver inside the vehicle, a user interface including a display device on the interior surface of the vehicle, the method comprising:

utilizing one or more microprocessors to perform the following:

executing a command execution mode in response to the switch being actuated by the driver;

performing voice recognition on a voice command which is received by the voice command receiver when the command execution mode is executed;

if the voice command cannot be recognized by the voice recognition,

performing an analysis determining a particular cause of incapability of recognition of the voice command, and

causing the display device to display a visual notice indicating to the driver the determined cause of the incapability of recognition on the result of the analysis as a result of the driver visually recognizing the visual notice as representing a particular one of a plurality of different candidate causes of incapability of recognition, the visual notice being one of a plurality of different display formats for the display device which are stored in the apparatus in correspondence with the plurality of different causes of incapability of recognition, respectively; and

if the voice command is recognized by the voice recognition, executing the voice command;

executing an operation guidance mode in response to the user interface being actuated by the driver by a nonverbal input; and

causing the display device to display visual operation guidance to the driver regarding the command execution mode when the operation guidance mode is executed.

22. (Proposed) The method of claim 21, wherein:

the vehicle mounted apparatus includes a memory device which stores a the correspondence between the different display formats and the different causes of incapability of recognition by the voice recognition section, respectively, such that each of the stored display formats corresponds to a respective one of the different causes according to the stored correspondence, and

the method further comprises utilizing the one or more microprocessors to perform the following if the voice command cannot be recognized by the voice recognition:

read the display format corresponding to the particular cause determined by the result of analysis from the memory device; and

cause the display device to display the visual notice of the particular cause by changing a screen of the display device to exhibit the read display format.